

San Joaquin River Basin Rotational Sub-basin Monitoring:
Eastside Basin, January 2003 – April 2004
(Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced River Watersheds; and Farmington and Valley Floor
Drainage Areas)

MONITORING SITE INFORMATION

Site ID#: MAR202 Site Name: Merced River at Briceburg Recreation Area

Sub-Basin: Merced Watershed

Time Period Monitored: February 2003 – April 2003

Site Description, Location and Access:

This site is located approximately 15 miles northeast of Mariposa on Highway 140 at the Bureau of Land Management's Briceburg Visitors Center. Park in the day use area. Samples were collected at the beach area closest to the bridge over the Merced River. This site was discontinued after 1 April 2003 and replaced by Merced River at Bagby Recreation area. The concern was that by sampling upstream of the overnight campground, we were missing their potential influence on the River.

Latitude/Longitude: Lat. N 37° 36' 20" Long. W 119° 57' 58"
County: Mariposa

WATER SOURCE

The Merced River originates in Mariposa County, within the Yosemite National Park. It flows through the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, which is characterized by forests, high relief terrain, and steep granite slopes. This site represents the upper watershed, upstream of impoundment and primarily receives drainage from the Merced River source waters. Upstream of this site, there is a small amount of development within the Yosemite Valley. Human activities in the Yosemite Valley have included agriculture, recreation, wastewater treatment, and timber harvest (USGS, 1999). Briceburg is a recreation area where camping, boating and fishing are prevalent.

No Photo available.

MONITORING SITE INFORMATION

Site ID#: MAR203 Site Name: Merced River at Bagby Recreation Area

Sub-Basin: Merced Watershed

Site Description, Location and Access:

This site is located about 18 miles north of Mariposa along Highway 49. Heading north on Highway 49 from Bear Valley, turn east at the sign for Bagby Recreation Area. Drive past the fee booth and continue east along the dirt road that leads to the campground. Turn north onto the dirt road leading down to the river, where the campground road turns into a one-way circle. Samples were collected from the bank of the river.

Latitude/Longitude: Lat. N 37° 36' 45.7" Long. W 121° 2' 18.6"

County: Mariposa

WATER SOURCE

The Merced River originates in Mariposa County, within the Yosemite National Park. It flows through the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, which is characterized by forests, high relief terrain, and steep granite slopes. This site was chosen as a representative of the upper watershed. Merced River at Bagby Recreation Area is representative pristine waters above lakes. Bagby Recreation Area is open to the public year-round and offers camping, boating, fishing, and picnicking with overnight and day use areas.



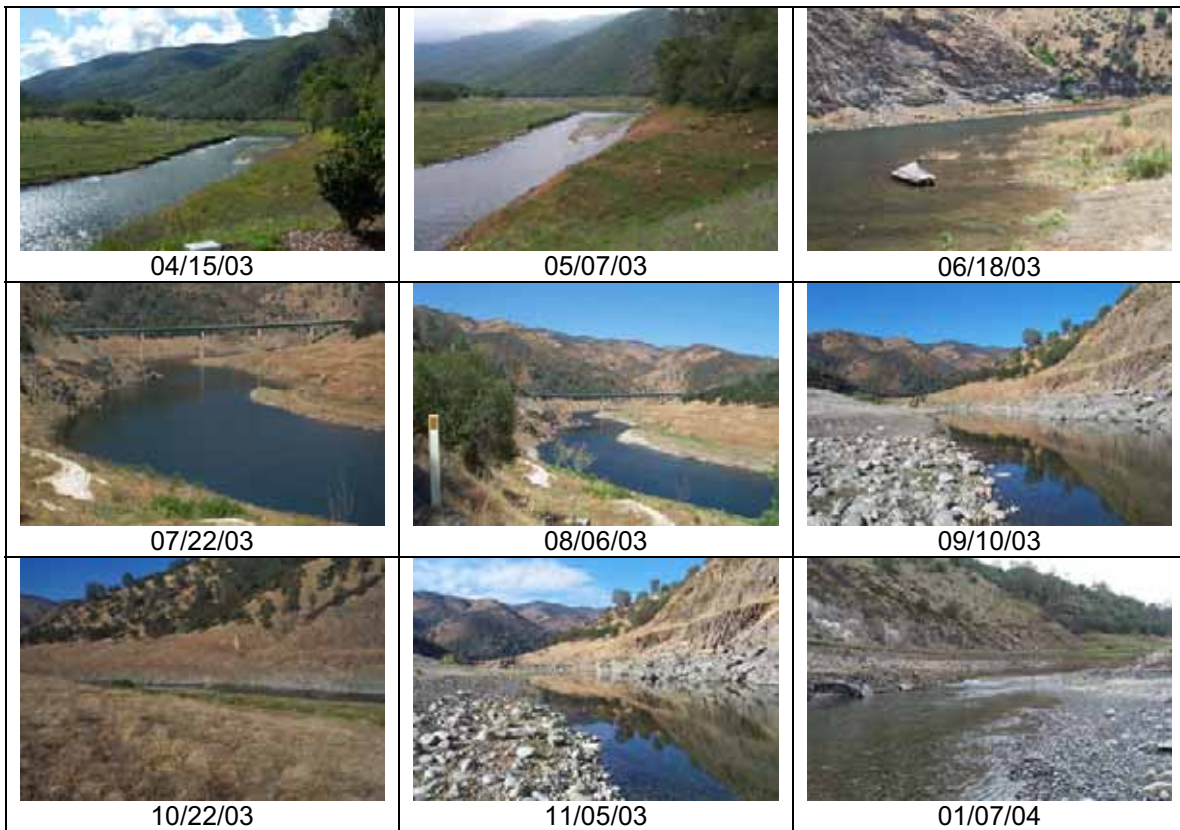
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MONTHLY PHOTO MONITORING

Site ID#: MAR203 Site Name: Merced River at Bagby Recreation Area

Sub-Basin: Merced Watershed

Time Period Monitored: April 2003 – January 2004



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MONITORING SITE INFORMATION

Site ID#: MAR201 Site Name: Merced River at Highway 49

Sub-Basin: Merced Watershed

Site Description, Location and Access:

This site is located about 18 miles north of Mariposa along Highway 49. From Highway 49, take the exit to the Bagby Recreation Area. Park at the top of the boat ramp, under the Highway 49 Bridge. Samples were collected at the end of the ramp. This site was replaced after 5 February 2003 by Merced River at Briceburg Recreation Area (MAR202) due to difficulty getting to the site and potential influence on water quality from road construction.

Latitude/Longitude: Lat. N 37° 36' 45" Long. W 120° 08' 10"
County: Mariposa

WATER SOURCE

The Merced River originates in Mariposa County, within the Yosemite National Park. It flows through the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, which is characterized by forests, high relief terrain and steep granite slopes. Merced River at Bagby Boat Ramp is representative of pristine waters above Lakes McClure. Bagby is a host to both overnight and day use recreation areas.



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MONTHLY PHOTO MONITORING

Site ID#: MAR201 Site Name: Merced River at Highway 49

Sub-Basin: Merced Watershed

Time Period Monitored: January 2003 – February 2003



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MONITORING SITE INFORMATION

Site ID#: MER209 Site Name: Merced River at Merced Falls Gauging Station

Sub-Basin: Merced Watershed

Site Description, Location and Access:

Merced River Falls Gauging Station is about 17 miles southeast of the town of La Grange along county highway J16. From the town of Snelling on Highway 59, take Merced Falls Road (J16) east about 2 miles past Henderson Park. Turn south into the dirt pullout at the mailbox with address 5706. You will see the metal roof of the gauging station. Samples were collected at the sandy bank.

Latitude/Longitude: Lat. N 37° 31' 04" Long. W 120° 22' 34"

County: Merced

WATER SOURCE

Upstream of this site, flow is regulated by Exchequer Dam, McSwain Dam, and Merced Falls Dam, which are operated by the Merced Irrigation District. Other activities upstream of the site include flow diversions, mining, levee construction, and land use conversion. Small foothill community activities, including the community of Merced Falls, predominate the surrounding area.



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MONTHLY PHOTO MONITORING

Site ID#: MER209 Site Name: Merced River at Merced Falls Gauging Station

Sub-Basin: Merced Watershed

Time Period Monitored: January 2003 – January 2004



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MONITORING SITE INFORMATION

Site ID#: MER202 Site Name: Merced River at Highway 99

Sub-Basin: Merced Watershed

Site Description, Location and Access:

This site is located approximately two miles north of Livingston along Highway 99. From the town of Turlock, drive south on Highway 99 past the town of Delhi, within the campgrounds of the Merced River Resort. Take the Collier Road exit west and turn south on Campground Road. Drive down the hill into Merced River Resort. Veer left after the parking area and park on the left side of the road when you reach the river (in the grassy area). Samples were collected at the bank, at the end of the trail.

Latitude/Longitude: Lat. N 37° 24' 00" Long. W 120° 44' 58"
County: Merced

WATER SOURCE

The Merced River at Highway 99 represents a mixture of flows from pasture dominated downstream creeks on the lower Merced River, storm water, and agricultural discharges, to include crops and livestock production and processing. Recreational activities include boating, fishing, and RV camping.



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MONTHLY PHOTO MONITORING

Site ID#: MER202 Site Name: Merced River at Highway 99

Sub-Basin: Merced Watershed

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MONITORING SITE INFORMATION

Site ID#: MER546 Site Name: Merced River at River Road

Sub-Basin: Merced Watershed

Site Description, Location and Access:

The site is under the historic bridge on the north bank near the mouth of the Merced River. The site is accessed via the parking lot at the intersection of River Road and Kelly Roads.

Latitude/Longitude: Lat. N 37° 20' 59" Long. W 120° 57' 28"
County: Merced

WATER SOURCE

Water quality at this site is representative of drainage from the entire watershed (1,300 square miles). The area is a daytime recreation area. Orchards, cropland, pastureland, and small community activities are among the land uses in the vicinity. As a long term monitoring site, sampling was augmented as part of this project.



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MONTHLY PHOTO MONITORING

Site ID#: MER546 Site Name: Merced River at River Road

Sub-Basin: Merced Watershed

Time Period Monitored: January 2003 – April 2004

